

Dionysius Exiguus was called  
Dennis the Little by the Romans.

He was abbot and mathematician  
lived in Rome in 6th Cen. AD. Rome  
was a shattered husk. The only district  
with a pulse lay across the city,  
across the Tiber at St. Peter's. He spent  
his career there, organizing church writings  
and tinkering with time. In 525  
Pope John I asked Dennis to calculate dates

on which all future Easter would be celebrated. The formula: Easter shall fall on the 1st Sun after the 1st full moon after the spring equinox. He created a chart of Easter beginning in 532 but for Roman citizens it was 1285 A.U.C. or 248 of Diocletian ( $754 \text{ AUC} = 1 \text{ AD}$ ) ( $285 \text{ AD} = 1 \text{ Diocletian}$ ). The abbot's preference for A.D. 480 appeared in his new Easter Chart anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi DXXXII

525-537

1912 Dates. J-BK

ANTHEMIUS of LYDIA and  
ISODORUS of MILETUS built  
the church of  
St. SOPHIA  
at CONSTANTINOPLE.

Dionysius Exiguus split history into AD & BC but it was not widely used till about 300 yrs later.

He used no zero year.  
He figured Jesus was born on Dec 25 of 1 B.C. and New Yrs day of AD 1 came 1 week later.

Somehow Dionysius reckoned the birth of Christ to have occurred in 753 AUC; but the Gospels state that Christ was born under Herod the Great - i. e., at the latest in 750 AUC. Dionysius' dating was questioned by the English St. Bede in the 8th Cen. and rejected outright by the German monk REGINO of PRÜM at the end

the 9th. Nevertheless, it has continued in use  
to the present day, and, as a result, the  
Nativity is reckoned to have taken place  
in W shortly before the yr. 4 B.C. when  
Herod died.

In 525, at the request of Pope St. John I, Dionysius Exiguus prepared a modified Alexandrian computation based on Victorinus' Cycle (of Aquitaine; c 468). He discarded the Alexandrian Era of Diocletian reckoned from 284 on the ground that he "did not wish to perpetuate the name of the Great Persecutor (Diocletian), but rather to

number the years from the Incarnation  
of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



525

## CHRONOLOGY

The Christian Era was first used by Christian monk

DIONYSIUS EXIGUUS, who fixed the birth of Christ in the year of Rome 753.

(It is generally agreed that this date is in error)

It is generally agreed, Bede the venerable introduced

this Christian era into historical  
writings in the 8th Cen. A.D.

The new Chronology (by Dionysius) was not regarded as a major discovery by its author; Dionysius' own letters are all dated by the INDICTIO. The use of the Christian Era spread through the employment of his new Easter tables

525+

Rome

Chronologists

The Christian era was invented by DIONYSIUS EXIGUUS (CAO-after 525), a monk of Scythian birth, resident in Italy; it was a by-product of the dispute that had long vexed the churches as to the correct method of calculating Easter. Many churches followed 95-yr tables evolved by THEOPHILUS, bishop of Alexandria,

and by his successor, St. CYRIL; but  
some Western churches followed other  
systems, notably a 532-year cycle  
prepared for Pope Hilarius (461-488)  
by VICTORIOUS of Aquitaine

525

Jew War

End of Jewish Kingdom  
in Southern Arabia

525

Dionysius Exiguus set the  
beginning of the Christian  
Era on Annunciation Day  
Mar. 25

Other days for the beginning  
of the Christian Era were  
Jan. 1; Mar. 1; Christmas-  
Day; and Easter

525

Duncan; Gal

Boethius  
'Consolation of Philosophy'



525

Duncan; Cal

Anno Domini / AD  
Dumysius Exiguus

525

c 500 - 560 DIONYSIUS EXIGUUS

"Little Denno". Described as  
a Scythian

In 525 (The yr Boethius was executed)  
Pope John (d. 526) asked him to calculate  
the Easter date for the next year. At  
the time this was part of an effort by  
the Roman Church to wear itself away  
from its sister Church in the East.  
Dionysius coopted their formulas & methods.

fleeing Rome from the terror lords of  
the ancient city of Stroggers

He turned to astronomy and  
mathematics to make his calculations,  
adopting what in those days was  
the most accurate method available,  
the 19-yr lunar cycle. Essentially he  
updated the table computed by the  
Alexandrian bishop Cyril, extending it  
from 532 to 627.

525

1912 Dates J-BK

Oslivogtko

SYMMACHUS and BOËTHIUS  
were executed.

Fall  
525

therefore pressed Pope John I into  
service as an envoy to the emperor.

In fall of 525 a large # of secular and ecclesiastical  
dignitaries went from Italy to Byzantium in  
an effort to improve relations

They remained a long time

On Easter Sunday (must have been 525)

Pope John performed the festive crowning  
of the emperor.

525

The *Principis senatus* SYMMACHUS  
(father-in-law of Boethius) was executed.

525

Theodoric's sister Amalafreda and her  
people had been murdered at the latest  
in 525

525

The Italian Ostrogothic Kingdom

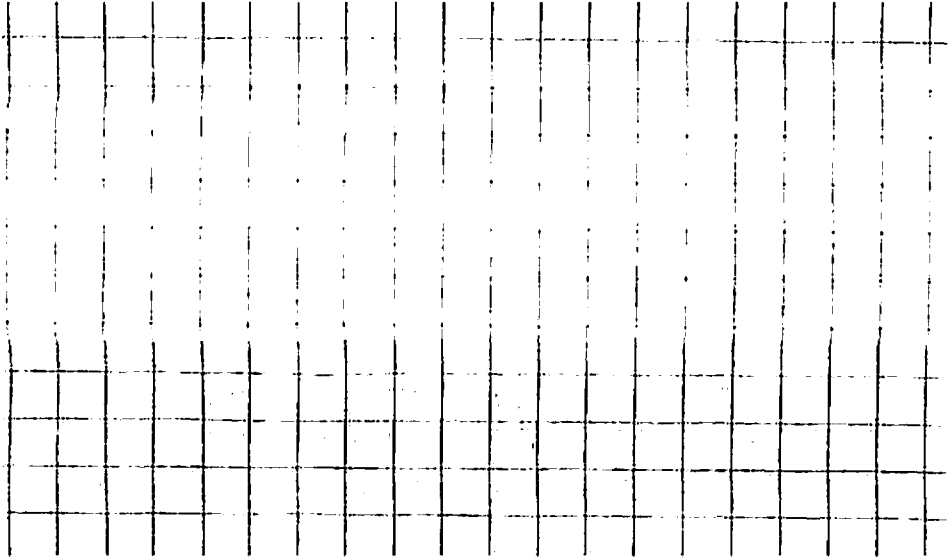
Death of Symmachus



CHURCH CALENDAR  
525AD

FORMAL PUBLIC DOCUMENTS  
WERE DATED ACCORDING TO THE  
CIVIL CALENDAR, BUT OTHER RECORDS  
AND PRIVATE DOCUMENTS WERE  
USUALLY DATED BY FESTIVAL OR  
SAINT'S DAY. EACH CHURCH THUS  
CAME TO HAVE ITS OWN CALENDAR.

FOR MANY YEARS THERE HAS BEEN  
DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER EASTER



525-565

## Justinian the Great

He was of humble, Latin speaking, Illyrian parent stock. Intelligent, industrious & concerned with every detail of government. Expected subordinates to be diligent also. He built churches: chief of which.

SANTA SOPHIA. He was a religious poet & composer of hymns. He lacked the capacity for decisive action, which Justinian's wife Theodora supplied. She was the

daughter of a bear-trainer and a former circus performer. She made an excellent Empress. After her death Justinian was pathetically irresolute. His two great aims were to get Roman Empire to its former greatness and championship of Catholicism. The codification of Roman law stands as one of his greatest achievements.

525

Demetrius Exiguus drew up a list of  
Easter dates using the Alexandrine  
19-year cycle

525AD

Dionysius EXIGUUS (c 500-560)  
Roman theologian and mathematician  
in his "Easter Tables" wrongly  
dates the birth of Christ on  
Dec 23 753 years after the  
founding of Rome, which  
took place in 753BC.

Later Chronographers changed  
BC & AD to Jan 1, 1AD  
instead of Christmas

Erigenus could fix neither  
the death of Herod nor the census  
of QUIRINUS precisely. He seems  
to have made an estimate based  
on other information in Luke

525 AD.

EASTER

In the early centuries the diversity of rules for observing Easter was the cause of much strife among the churches.

In 525 DIONYSIUS EXIGUUS drew up a list of Easter dates using the Alexandrine 19-yr cycle, and this scheme was adopted everywhere by the end of the 8th century. The Dionysian Cycle was universally followed until the Gregorian reform, which altered the



If Easter were freed from its independence  
on the moon, the present oscillation  
of 5 weeks in the date would be reduced  
to 1 week. Vatican Council II has declared  
that it is in no way opposed to the  
fixing of Easter on a definite Sunday,  
provided that agreement is reached  
with the separated brethren.